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Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Food Additives: New Uses and Flavorings 2003

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Report Highlights:

On December 3, 2003, the Health & Consumer Affairs Council adopted an amendment to the EU's Food Additives Directive. The amendment harmonizes the use of food additives in flavorings, introduces one new additive and allows new uses of some already authorized additives while a number of other additives will be withdrawn.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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Food Additives: New Uses and Flavorings

On December 3, 2003, the Health & Consumer Affairs Council adopted an amendment of Directive 95/2/EC on food additives other than colors and sweeteners. Directive 95/2/EC harmonizes the use of food additives and establishes a positive list of additives with conditions of use and maximum levels. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is responsible for assessing the safety and necessity of food additives before they are approved.

Food additives are also used in flavorings, e.g. to preserve flavor. Currently, there are no harmonized rules for additives in flavorings which means that their use varies between the different member states. The revised directive harmonizes EU legislation on additives necessary for the storage and use of flavorings.

The new directive also introduces one new food additive (hydrogenated poly-1-decene – used as a glazing agent) and allows new uses of some already authorized food additives while a number of other additives will be withdrawn because they are no longer widely used.

The new directive will enter into force 20 days following its publication in the Official Journal. Member states will have a transition period of 18 months to ensure compliance with the new rules.

The amendment to the food additives directive can be downloaded from the Internet at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/pdf/2003/com2003_0583en01.pdf. Links to current EU legislation on food additives can be found on our website at www.useu.be/agri/additive.html.

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